

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

did not see specimens elsewhere during my extensive wanderings in the park. A re-visit to the site in early June showed that the moths had left. I saw a few singles elsewhere in the park.

The Arctiid moth *Panaxia quadripunctaria* Poda in Cyprus shows a similar, but even more dramatic, pattern. Millions assemble in one roost in the small valley locally known as

Petaloudes, the Valley of Butterflies. There are indications that virtually the entire *Cyprus* population of this moth spends the dry summer in this one roost, and then disperses to breed all over the island. It would be extremely useful if the roost in Corbett could be kept under observation throughout a season, and there is great scope for mark-recapture experiments.

PERSONAL C/O DANIDA,
7 GOLF LINKS,
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July 4, 1985.

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34. MOTHS FEEDING ON LACHRYMAL FLUIDS OF UNGULATES
IN SARISKA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, RAJASTHAN

During field training courses in Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary, Alwar, Rajasthan in November 1984 staff and trainees of the Wildlife Institute of India observed numbers of moths clustered around the eyes of ungulates shortly after nightfall. Careful observation with spot-light and high power binoculars showed the moths to be feeding, with the proboscis inserted over the lower eyelid into the socket.

By good fortune a single specimen was caught when an adult female nilgai ran through dense shrubs causing moths to fly off. The moth was readily identified as a member of the family Noctuidae at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun and appeared similar to the photograph of *Lobocraspis griseifusca* feeding around the eyes of a bovid (Grzimek 1975). The specimen was sent to the British

TABLE 1

TIMING AND INFESTATION OF MOTHS AROUND UNGULATE EYES IN SARISKA
(Two evenings observation in November 1984)

Time			Spotted Deer			Nilgai			Sambar		
a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c
6.00-6.15	p.m.		5	0,0	—	4	0,0	—	7	0,0	—
6.15-6.30			5	0,0	—	1	0,0	—	3	1,33	3
6.30-7.00			1	2,29	4,5	2	1,50	20	9	5,56	2.8
7.00-7.30			4	3,75	4.0	4	4,100	8.5	6	6,100	6.3

a = Number of animals examined
b = Number and percentage of animal infested

c = Average number of moths per infested animal

Museum (Natural History) where it was identified as *Arcyophora trigramma* Hampson; a species poorly represented in the BMNH, but the type specimen was from Mt. Abu in Rajasthan, and a further specimen from Malaysia.

In Sariska on two subsequent nights we looked for the presence of moths on spotlighted deer (*Axis axis*), nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) and sambar (*Cervus unicolor*). Darkness fell at about 6.05 p.m., but no moths were seen before 6.20 p.m. Data on frequency and intensity of moth infestation are given in Table 1. Data clearly show the pattern of increasing frequency of infestation as night continues; the admittedly small sample giving almost 100% infestation rate from 7.00 to 7.30 p.m. Number of moths per animal showed no discernible pattern. On a return visit to Sariska in the late dry season in July 1985,

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no moths were seen during three evenings observation.

I noticed no obvious sign of discomfort or irritation even with the maximum number of twelve moths around one eye (nilgai). Eyes remained open and motionless for long periods with several moths stationary and all with their probosci inserted over the eyelid.

Such moths could be the vector of parasites which also use the eye as a host organ, such as nematodes of the conjunctival tubes.

Noctuidae moths have a wide distribution within South Asia, and feed on a variety of hosts. Despite questioning several naturalists and persons familiar with Sariska, I have not learnt of previous sightings there, or elsewhere in India.

I am grateful to Dr. Pratap Singh of the Forest Research Institute and to Dr. M. Honey of the British Museum of Natural History, London for assistance in identification.

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REFERENCE

GRZIMEK, B. (Ed.) (1975): Animal Life Encyclopaedia Vol. 2: Insecta. Van Nostrand Reinhold. New York.

35. ZOOGEOGRAPHY OF INDIAN DACINAE (DIPTERA: TEPHRITIDAE)

(With two text-figures)

INTRODUCTION

The flies belonging to subfamily Dacinae (family-Tephritidae) commonly known as fruit flies, are serious pests of nearly all kinds of

fruits and vegetables. Dacinae is represented by 166 species belonging to 4 genera from the Oriental region. Of which, 43 species belonging to 2 genera namely, *Callantra* Walker (7 species) and *Dacus* Fabricius (36 species) are